of the committee that issued the first call for organization of the American Morphological Society, the forerunner of the American Society of Zoologists, and he was president of the society for the first four years, 1891–94. He was organizer of the *Journal of Morphology* and its editor for many years, and in this capacity also exerted a strong influence on the development of zoological research in America. As director of the Marine Biological Laboratory for twenty-one years, he exerted an even more powerful and entirely unique influence in the development of biological science. As an investigator he was painstaking, enthusiastic and thorough, as a thinker on biological problems profound and far-sighted. Devoted to principle, his uncompromising personality sometimes made enemies, but the charm of his character made him devoted friends. His influence will long remain as one of the most important forces in the history of zoology in America.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

JOHN WILLIAM DRAPER, eminent for his contributions to physics, chemistry and physiology, was born on May 5, 1811, and the centenary of his birth is being celebrated by New York University, where he was professor from 1839 until 1873.

THE Paris Academy of Sciences has elected as corresponding members Professor Svante Arrhenius, of Stockholm, in the section for physics, and Professor I. P. Pawlow, of St. Petersburg, in the section of medicine.

As already announced, the British Association will meet at Portsmouth on August 30. On the evening of that day, Sir William Ramsay will give the presidential address. Public lectures will be given by Mr. Leonard Hill on the "Physiology of Submarine Work," and by Professor A. C. Seward on "Links with the Past in the Plant World."

THE Association of German Men of Science and Physicians will hold its eighty-third meeting at Karlsruhe from September 24 to 30.

MR. J. H. GRISDALE has been appointed director of the experimental farm system of Canada, to succeed Dr. William Saunders.

PROFESSOR LOUIS DOREMUS HUNTOON, M.E., of the department of mining and metallurgy, Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University, has resigned his position to engage in work in the Canadian gold fields.

DR. F. W. WOLL, professor of agricultural chemistry in the University of Wisconsin, has been designated as the delegate of the university at the celebration of the centennial of the University of Christiania, Norway, September 2 to 6, 1911. Dr. Woll is a graduate of the University of Christiania.

PRESIDENT TAFT has appointed the following as the official representatives of the respective bureaus of the federal government on the organizing committee of the International Congress of Applied Chemistry: *Department of the Treasury*—Dr. Reid Hunt, Hygienic Laboratory, Marine Hospital Service; Dr. A. B. Adams, Internal Revenue Service. *Department of the Interior*—Mr. George Seiger, Geological Survey; Dr. George S. Ely, Patent Office; Professor Nathaniel W. Lord, Ohio State University, Columbus, O., to represent Bureau of Mines. *Department of Agriculture*—Dr. H. W. Wiley, Chief, Bureau of Chemistry; Dr. C. F. Langworthy, Office of Experiment Stations; Professor W. W. Cooke, Biological Survey; Mr. William L. Hall, Forest Service; Dr. Frank E. Cameron, Bureau of Soils; Professor W. J. Humphreys, Weather Bureau; Dr. R. H. True, Bureau of Plant Industry; Dr. Marion Dorset, Bureau of Animal Industry; Dr. W. F. Hillebrand, Chief Chemist, Bureau of Standards.

PROFESSOR K. L. HATCH, of the University of Wisconsin, has been elected president of the newly founded American Association for the Advancement of Agricultural Teaching in Secondary Schools, which was launched in Chicago at a meeting of all the heads of departments of agricultural education in the universities and colleges in the north central states. Representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture were also present. The purpose of the new society is to organize and systematize agricultural material so that it can be used with greater efficiency in propagating agricultural education through the medium of the high schools of the nation.

Mr. K. F. Kellerman, physiologist in the Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, sailed for Europe on April 25 and will spend three months in a study of the progress being made in the investigation of soil bacteriology in Germany, Russia, France and England.

Dr. Charles B. Robinson expects to return to this country about the end of July. Dr. Robinson has been in the service of the Philippine Bureau of Science for over three years and it is understood has been collecting this spring along the Indo-China coast, a region very little known botanically.

On April 27 Professor R. W. Wood, of the Johns Hopkins University, began a course of three lectures at the Royal Institution on "The Optical Properties of Metallic Vapors," these being the Tyndall lectures.

Sir John Murray lectured before the New York Academy of Sciences on April 24, his subject being "The Depths of the Sea." On April 27 he lectured before the Geographical Society of Chicago on "The Ocean." After the lecture the Helen Culver gold medal of the society was conferred upon him.

Dr. Jacques Loeb, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, delivered the address at the annual conversational meeting of the Philadelphia Pathological Society, on April 27. His subject was "Fertilizing Effects of the Extracts of Tissues, Blood and Sperm." After the address a reception was given to Dr. Loeb at the University Club.

Professor Lafayette B. Mendel, of the Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University, gave two lectures on "Nutrition" at Goucher College, Baltimore, on April 27 and 28.

Professor E. L. Mark, director of the zoological laboratories of Harvard University, gave an illustrated lecture before the departments of geology and biology of Colgate University on the evening of April 21. His subject was "Some Vestigial Organs in Man."

Dr. Maximilian Toch, head of the firm of Toch Brothers, manufacturers of paints, will give three lectures before the students of the Engineering School of Columbia University, on "Paints, Pigments and Drying Oils." Dr. Toch was at one time assistant professor in Columbia.

Professor G. W. Ritchey, of the Mount Wilson Solar Observatory, at Pasadena, Cal., gave a public lecture under the auspices of the University of Minnesota Chapter of the Sigma Xi on April 21 on the subject "The Largest Telescope in the World and its use in Photographing the Heavens."

Professor Svante Arrhenius, Stockholm, Sweden, will deliver the third Weir Mitchell lecture of the Philadelphia College of Physicians on May 16. The subject will be "The Passage of Microorganisms through Interstellar Space: a Theory bearing on the Origin of Life on a Planet."

A life of Mrs. Ellen H. Richards is to be written with the approval of Professor Richards. It is hoped that the story of her life may be of such a character that it will not only interest those who have known Mrs. Richards either personally or through her work, but will also serve to extend her influence and to inspire future workers. Any material, such as letters, photographs, characteristic sayings and incidents, which will help to show her personality and her interests and activities will be valuable to the editor, Miss Caroline L. Hunt, and should be sent to her at 32 Eliot Street, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Dr. Charles Stedman Bull, professor of ophthalmology in the medical department of Cornell University, died on April 17, aged sixty-six years.

Mr. T. Rupert Jones, F.R.S., formerly professor of geology at Sandhurst, has died at the age of ninety-one years.

Major George Lamb, director of the Pasteur Institute of India and known for his important work on snake venoms, the plague and hydrophobia, died at Edinburgh on April 11, in his forty-second year.

Professor Eduard Zacharias, director of the Botanical Institute of Hamburg, has died at the age of fifty-nine years.

Professor A. Houzeau, professor of chemistry in the Rouen Scientific School, has died at the age of eighty-two years.

THE eighth annual meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine will be held in Tulane University, New Orleans, on May 18 and 19, under the presidency of Dr. William S. Thayer, of the Johns Hopkins University.

WORD has been received from Professor Arthur H. Quinn, secretary of the Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools of the Middle States and Maryland, that the association accepts the invitation of Columbia University to hold the next meeting there. The meeting will take place on December 1 and 2, 1911.

ON the invitation of the departments of science of Princeton University, the teachers of science in New Jersey schools will hold their annual meeting in Princeton on May 27.

IN a letter to Secretary Walcott, of the Smithsonian Institution, dated Bahia Blanca, Argentina, March 17, 1911, Mr. Bailey Willis gives the following account of the initiation of the work which he is conducting for the Argentine government:

> You may care to know what progress we are making in the forty-first parallel survey, south latitude. We landed in Buenos Aires twenty days ago. The topographers have now been at work a week on base line and station signals in northern Patagonia. Washburne and Jones, geologists, went out to initiate themselves in the geology of a section that has been studied along the railroad that runs west from this city half way to the Andes. Pemberton and I remained in Buenos Aires till yesterday, when we got our outfit aboard the steamer that takes it to Puerto San Antonio in northern Patagonia. Now we are off with 120 mules and horses on a 200-mile ride across Pampa and plateau to San Antonio. The region is almost waterless south of the Rio Negro. We find that there is a basement of gneiss and granite, which comes to the surface here and there. There are porous continental sandstones of Tertiary and Cretaceous ages, and also large areas of basalt. Their distribution is unknown, but in the course of four or five months we shall know it, and the answer to the water problem will be worked out.

IN his recent address at Madison, ex-President Theodore Roosevelt spoke as follows in regard to the University of Wisconsin: "It is not too much to say that the University of Wisconsin occupies a position entirely unique not merely in this country but in the world, as an institution which beyond all others has come the nearest to recognizing the ideals of using the instrumentalities of higher education for rendering the greatest possible service to the country. The nation, as a whole, points to this state as the state in which the leading public men are not backed by the ordinary corporations that too many of our public men have been backed by in the past, but by the greatest educational institution in the state, and I have found everywhere on the Pacific slope and in the Rocky Mountains that the ambition of every state was to follow Wisconsin as the wisest and most far seeing progressive state, and to secure the same cooperation in their state between their government and their university in rendering service to the state, which obtains to-day in Wisconsin."

AT a meeting of executive officers of boards of health of New Jersey, held at Newark, N. J., on April 17, 1911, a permanent organization to be known as "The Health Officers' Association of New Jersey" was formed. A number of the more prominent health officers of the state were present. The objects of the organization are, the advancement of knowledge relating to public health and sanitation and the encouragement of social intercourse among health officials. The following officers were elected:

President—C. H. Wells, Health Officer, Montclair.

Vice-president—John O'Brien, Jr., Health Officer, Plainfield.

Secretary and Treasurer—J. Scott MacNutt, Health Officer, Orange.

An executive committee of seven was elected, and the officers, with the advice of this committee, were instructed to draw up a constitution and by-laws for presentation at the next meeting to be held May 17. The membership at present includes as eligible all health officials holding state board of health licenses, and doubtless will be extended to other health

board officials and employees and members of local boards of health. Five or six meetings a year will be held for the presentation and discussion of papers. Most of the prominent health board officials of the state have expressed themselves as strongly in favor of the association, which promises to grow rapidly in membership and influence.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of Ernest V. Cowell, the University of California receives a bequest of $750,000. It is for a hospital, a gymnasium and an athletic stadium, each to cost $250,000.

The Nebraska legislature has passed a bill, which the governor has signed, appropriating $100,000 with which to begin the development of the campus of the College of Medicine of the university, in Omaha. The issue presented in the legislature was whether or not the state was ready to begin the development of a complete medical college plant, and the decision was affirmative, by a narrow margin in the house and by a wide margin in the senate.

Dr. Elmer Ellsworth Brown, U. S. Commissioner of Education, has been elected chancellor of New York University.

Bruce Payne, Ph.D. (Columbia, 1905), professor of educational psychology in the University of Virginia, has been appointed president of the George Peabody College for Teachers at Nashville. The old Peabody College has been disbanded and President Payne will have a free field in constructing the new one, which is to have new grounds, buildings and faculty, and one million and a half additional endowment.

Professor H. H. Newman, chairman of the school of zoology, University of Texas, has resigned to accept an associate professorship of zoology at the University of Chicago. All appointments in zoology at Texas have been made and the details will be made public in a subsequent number of this Journal.

Dr. Clinton R. Stauffer, assistant professor of geology at the School of Mining, Kingston, Canada, has been appointed associate professor of geology in Western Reserve University.

Dr. J. J. Laub, of Heidelberg, has been appointed professor of theoretical physics and geophysics in the University of La Plata.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE REFORM OF THE CALENDAR

To the Editor of Science: A recent letter by Professor Chamberlin in your journal entitled "Reform of the Calendar" has reinterested me in the subject and suggested the publication of another, and, it is hoped, more correct view of the subject. A perusal of the article "Calendar" in Encyclopædia Britannica will suggest arguments in its favor; as to recent articles on the subject, time and inclination are lacking for their reading and the risk is run of anticipation on conflict.

As the greater part of the eighteen folio pages in the Encyclopædia is under the head "Reformation of the Calendar" or treats of intricate peculiarities calling for reform, the legitimate effect of the article is the conclusion that what is needed and possible is not a reformation, but a

Simplification of the Calendar

Let us then state this as a problem and attempt a solution. The Encyclopædia's definition may be condensed to read "A calendar is a method of meting out time into hours, days, etc., for ordinary use." It is therefore a table of measures which establishes certain units of time and defines the relations between them, and this must be so done as to facilitate the transaction of business.

A fortunate solution must depend largely on the units employed and Professor Woolhouse gives, as he must, the *solar day* and the *solar year* as two natural and indispensable units, mentioning later the *month* as a natural but not indispensable one. Owing to these units being natural, they are incommensurable and simplicity requires the smallest possible number of such units. It would therefore seem advisable to exclude the month from any controlling influence in the calendar.